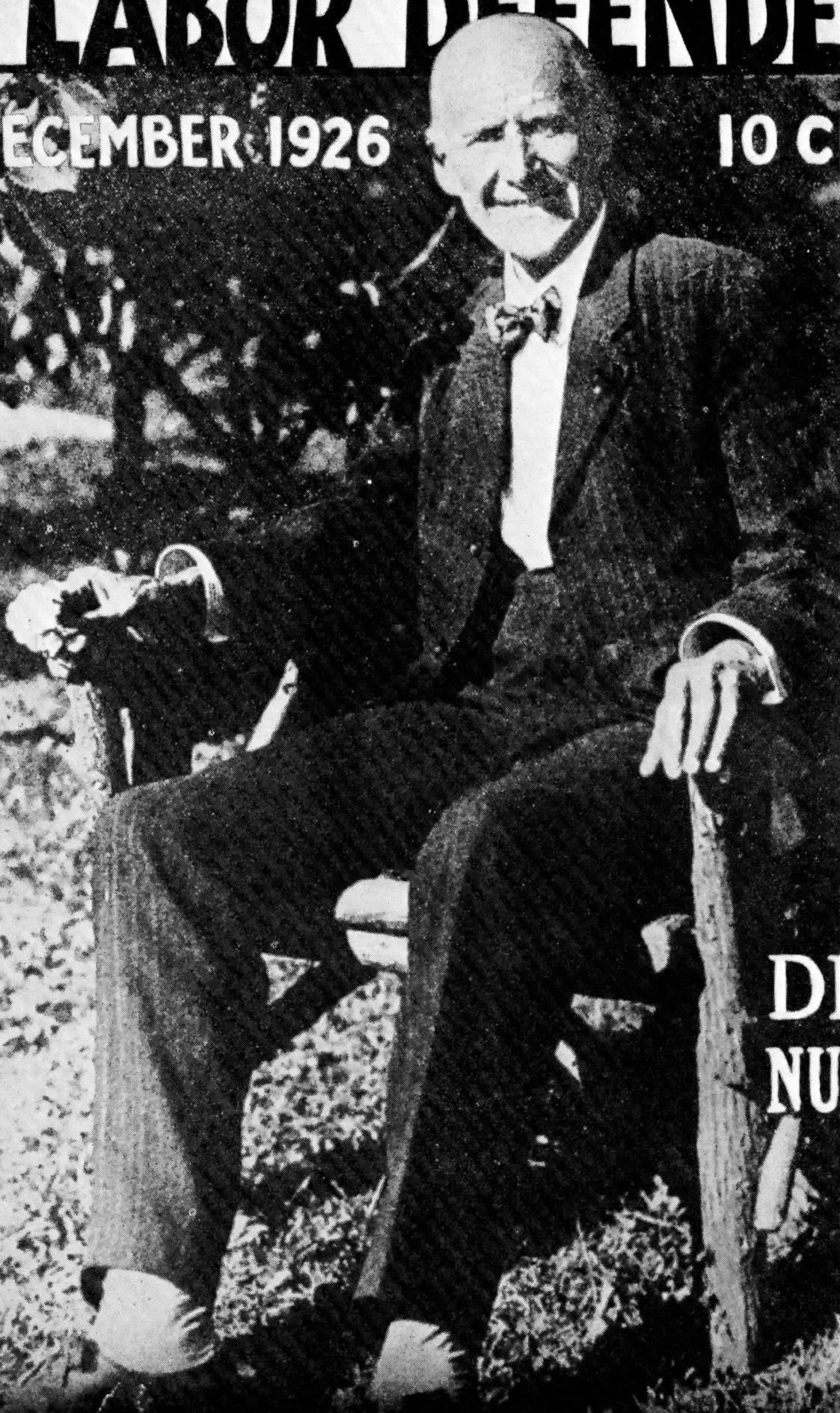


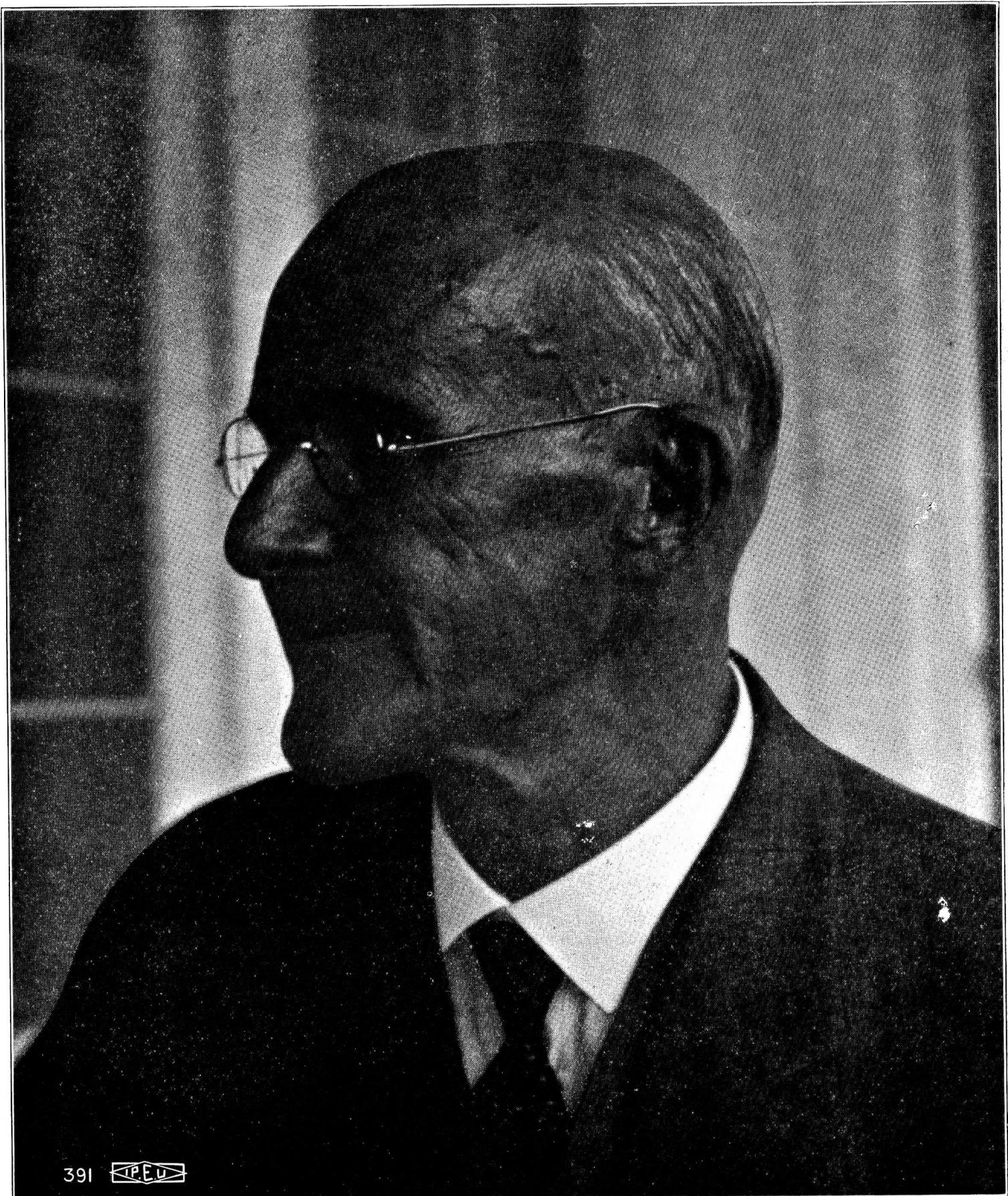
LABOR DEFENDER

DECEMBER 1926

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NUMBER





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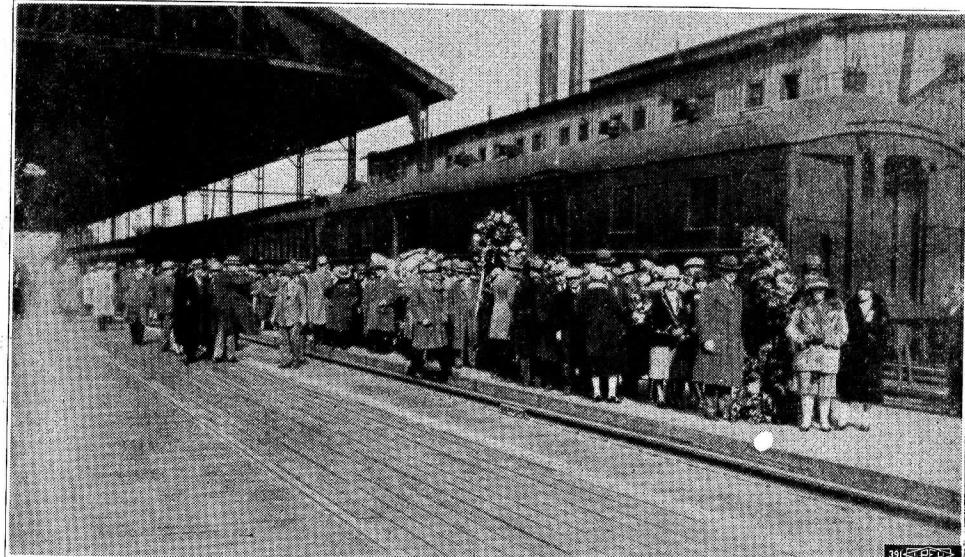
Eugene Victor Debs

Debs at Canton

Extracts from his speech

DEARLY that, in speaking to you this afternoon, there are certain limitations placed upon the right of free speech. I must be exceedingly careful, prudent, as to what I say, and even more careful and prudent as to how I say it. I may not be able to say all I think; but I am not going to say anything that I do not think. I would rather a thousand times be a free soul in jail than be a sycophant and coward in the streets. They may put those boys in jail—and some of the rest of us in jail—but they cannot put the socialist movement in jail. Those prison bars separate their bodies from ours, but their souls are here this afternoon. They are simply paying the penalty that all men have paid in all the ages of history for standing erect, and for seeking to pave the way to better conditions for mankind.

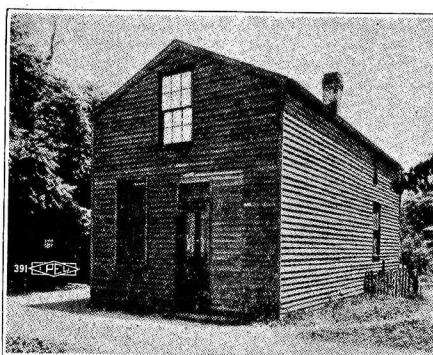
If it had not been for the men and women, who, in the past, have had the moral courage to go to jail, we would still be in the jungles.



The Chicago labor delegation to the funeral arrives at Terre Haute.

It is true that these are anxious, trying days for us all—testing days for the women and men who are upholding the banner of labor in the

fail and desert. They lack the fibre to endure the revolutionary test; they fall away; they disappear as if they had never been. On the other hand, they who are animated by the unconquerable spirit of the social revolution; they who have the moral courage to stand erect and assert their convictions; stand by them; fight for them; go to jail or to hell for them if need be—they are writing their names, in this crucial hour—they are writing their names in fadeless letters in the history of mankind.



Debs' birthplace.

struggle of the working class of all the world against the exploiters of all the world; a time in which the weak and cowardly will flatter and

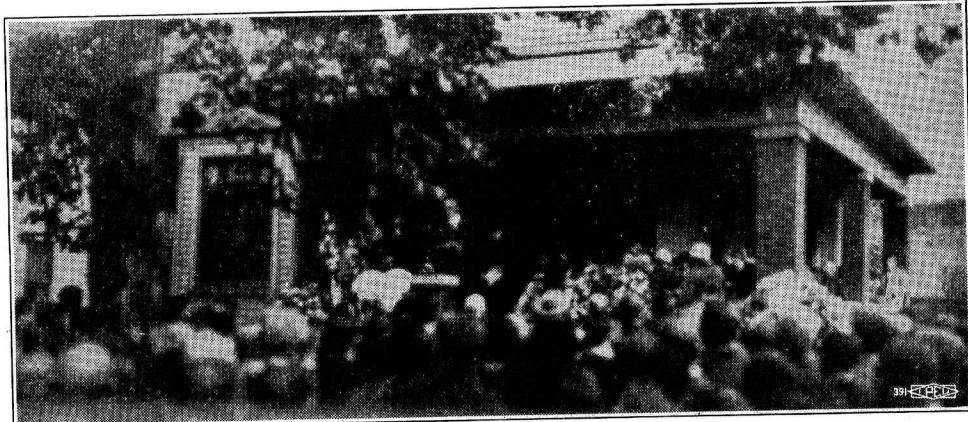
Aye, all our hearts now throb as one great heart responsive to the battle cry of the social revolution. Here, in this alert and responsive assemblage, our hearts are with the Bolsheviks of Russia. Those heroic men and women, those unconquerable comrades have by their incomparable valor and sacrifice added fresh lustre to the fame of the international movement. Those Russian comrades of ours have made greater sacrifices, have suffered more, and have shed more heroic blood than any like number of men and women anywhere on earth; they have laid the foundation of the first real democracy that ever drew the breath of life in this world. And the very first act of the triumphant Russian revolution was to proclaim a state of peace with all mankind, coupled with a fervent moral appeal, not to kings, not to emperors, rulers or diplomats but to *the people* of all nations. Here we have the very breath of democracy, the quintessence of the dawning freedom. The



Wreaths around the Debs home.

Russian revolution proclaimed its glorious triumph in its ringing and inspiring appeal to *the peoples* of all the earth. In a humane and fraternal spirit new Russia, emancipated at last from the curse of the centuries, called upon all nations engaged in the frightful war, the Central Powers as well as the Allies, to send representatives to a conference to lay down terms of peace that should be just and lasting. Here was the supreme opportunity to strike the blow to make the world safe for democracy. Was there any response to that noble appeal that in some day to come will be written in letters of gold in the history of the world? Was there any response whatever to that appeal for universal peace? No, not the slightest attention was paid to it by the Christian nations engaged in the terrible slaughter.

A change is certainly needed, not merely a change of party but a change of system; a change from slavery to freedom and from despotism to democracy, wide as the world. When this change comes at last, we shall rise from brutehood to brotherhood, and to accomplish it we shall have to educate and organize the workers industrially and politically, but not along the zig-zag craft lines laid down by Gompers, who through all of his career has favored the master class. You never hear the capitalist press speak of him nowadays



Norman Thomas speaking on the life of Debs.

except in praise and adulation. He has recently come into great prominence as a patriot. You never find him on the unpopular side of a great issue. He is always conservative, satisfied to leave the labor problem to be settled finally at the banquet-

each other. You will never vote the socialist republic into existence. You will have to lay its foundations in industrial organization. The industrial union is the forerunner of industrial democracy.

Yes, in good time we are going to sweep into power in this nation and throughout the world. We are going to destroy all enslaving and degrading capitalist institutions and recreate them as free and humanizing institutions. The world is daily changing before our eyes. The sun of capitalism is setting; the sun of socialism is rising.

In due time the hour will strike and this great cause triumphant—the greatest in history—will proclaim the emancipation of the working class and the brotherhood of all mankind.



Part of I. L. D. delegation to Terre Haute.

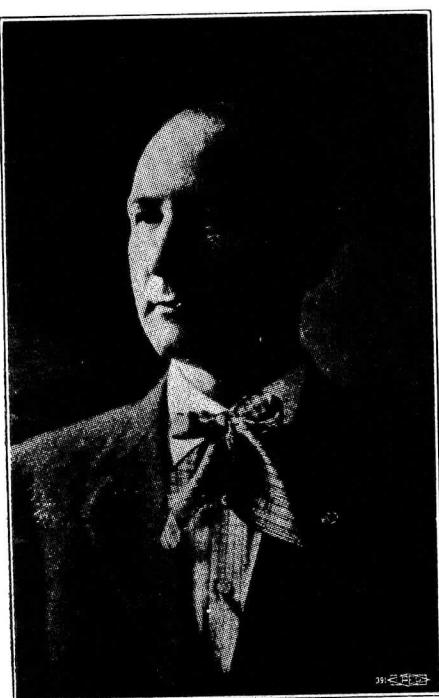
James P. Cannon and Ralph Chaplin.

ing board with Elihu Root, Andrew Carnegie and the rest of the plutocratic civic federationists. When they drink wine and smoke scab cigars together the labor question is settled so far as they are concerned.

And while they are praising Gompers they are denouncing the I. W. W. There are few men who have the courage to say a word in favor of the I. W. W. I have. Let me say here that I have great respect for the I. W. W. Far greater than I have for their infamous detractors.

Now what you workers need is to organize not along craft lines but along revolutionary industrial lines.

Political action and industrial action must supplement and sustain



Eugene's brother, Theodore Debs.

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Labor Greets the Queen

THE year of 1926 was the sesquicentennial, or one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the American revolutionary war of independence of 1776. A big exposition was held in Philadelphia. The whole country commemorated the struggle for freedom and liberation from the yoke of royalism and of the divine right to rule of monarchs.

In the same year came to our shores Queen Marie von Hohenzollern of Roumania, kin of Kaiser Wilhelm II (formerly of Germany) and Queen Victoria of Britain. No amateur queen this, either. She has her royal domain and her royal tiara and her royal affairs. She has a terrorized population which knows that the rouged cheeks of its mistress is the reflection of the sea of blood and torture in which have been drowned the best representatives of the workers and peasants and national minorities of Roumania.

This does not, however, matter to the patriots of America. Big hearted lads that they are, all of them will readily forgive and forget.

Therefore, no sooner did the queen and her entourage land in this country than one governmental, municipal and state official vied with the other as to who would more skillfully wrap his tongue around her boots; find out what was the socially correct angle at which the base of the spinal column should meet the top



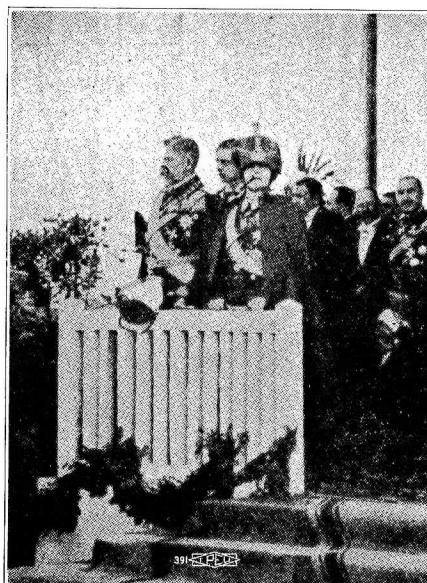
Chicago Workers in front of City Hall one minute before the police attack.

of the legs in bending to kiss the queen's glove; others watched with fascination and envy the humble serpent to see how cleverly it crawled

persecuted in Roumania. American labor must always remember how much is owed to those workers in the rest of the world who have rallied so persistently to the cause, in former days, of Mooney and Billings, and later, of Sacco and Vanzetti.

When the queen landed in New York, International Labor Defense immediately organized a meeting in Union Square where thousands of workers gathered to denounce the frightful reign of terror in Roumania.

Upon the queen's return from the west, after having had internal difficulties with her escorts, and meeting with a constantly cooler reception, she stopped off in Chicago. In-



MARIE.

upon its belly towards a given object. The capitalist newspapers outdid themselves in fawning and quiescence.

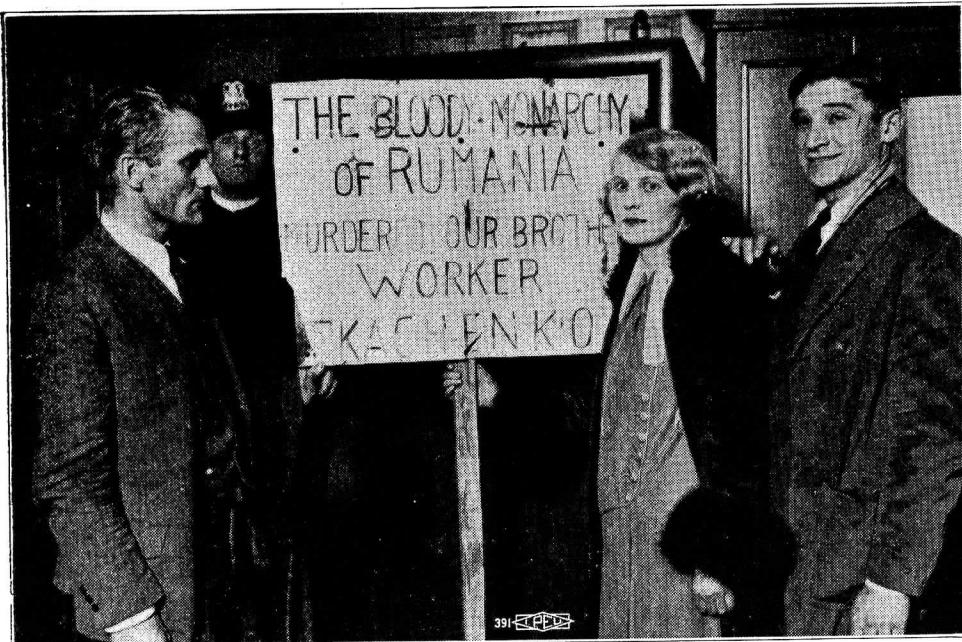
But the tour of the queen was not a march of undisturbed triumph. The American workers, represented by some of their most active elements, not only bore themselves in the best tradition of the revolution of '76, but acquitted themselves again of a debt of international working class honor by demonstrating their solidarity with the masses of oppressed and



*Pavel Tkatchenko.
A Siguranza-Murdered Worker.*

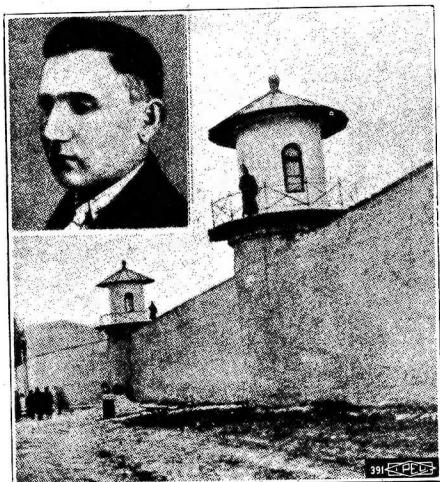


*Boris Stefanov.
On Trial for Life in Roumania.*



George Maurer, Sec'y Chicago I. L. D., Margaret Miller, and Albert Zuris in the police station with their banner.

International Labor Defense was there to greet her. As she descended out of the Illinois Central station, at Michigan Ave. and 12th St., some five hundred members and sympathizers of I. L. D. greeted her with loud booing, and waved their placards and banners almost in her face as she drove off in her automobile.



A Roumanian prison of horror, (corner) the murdered Max Goldstein.

Right into the tonneau of the car, where she shrank into the corner, was yelled the word "Cotzofanesti!" the reminder of her orgies in 1917 while Roumanian workers and peasants were dying at the front.

Joined by additional scores, the I. L. D. delegation marched off to the city hall, in the face of the miserable drizzle. Half way around the city hall they paraded, banners and streamers and placards flying—calling for the end of Roumanian terrorism and to the kowtowing to the black queen of Roumania. The whole loop district was in turmoil, and crowds gathered everywhere to watch the procession. Suddenly the police charged. Banners and placards were smashed and torn. The crowd was dispersed—for the queen. George Maurer, secretary of Chicago I. L. D., Margaret Miller and Albert Zuris, were arrested—for the queen. They were immediately released; it was a little too raw!

The next day eight men and women were arrested in Chicago for distributing leaflets against the queen and terrorist rule in Rou-

mania. They are being held and their trial will soon take place.

Newspapers throughout the country carried lurid stories of the demonstration. It was a successful one. It opened wide the running sore of Roumanian horrors against workers and peasants and national minorities that could no longer be hidden by Marie's sinister smile or her broad golden cloaks.

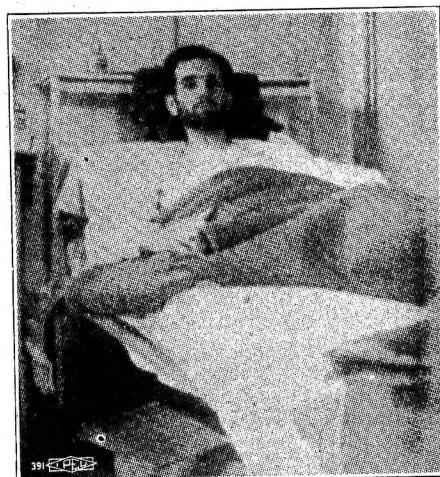
Two days after the demonstration the queen announced that she would not visit any more cities but would leave the country forthwith. If we have helped to drive her from this land we are glad of our work. Let the bloody queen take back with her the memories of the opinion of American labor with which we impressed her in Chicago and New York (and, as this is written, in any other city she may dare to stop in):

AN END TO THE ROUMANIAN TERROR AGAINST WORKERS AND PEASANTS AND THE NATIONAL MINORITIES!

RELEASE ALL THE FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM FROM PRISON!

AN END TO THE REGIME OF HORRORS IN ROUMANIA!

THE AMERICAN WORKERS SEND THEIR FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO THEIR BITTERLY PRESSED BROTHERS IN THE LAND OF MARIE!



A Communist prisoner in Roumania after a protest hunger strike.



An I. L. D. Demonstration against the queen in Union Square, New York.

The Jones & Laughlin Raid

By Caroline Scollen

THURSDAY, November 11th, was Armistice Day. On that day America was celebrating the end of the world war which "made the world safe for democracy." On that day Woodlawn, Pennsylvania, had occasion to show in reality how at least our own America was made safe for democracy. Woodlawn is a little steel town owned and controlled by the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation.

It was about 10 in the evening. A birthday party was given by Tom Zima, a worker of Woodlawn in honor of his sixteen-year-old daughter. A number of guests were enjoying a good supper prepared for the occasion by Mrs. Zima. Among the guests was also Milan Resetar, who was one of those who during the war did his share to help make the world safe for democracy. He rushed to Pittsburgh to enlist in the Serbian army to help the Allies win the war.

While the hungry crowd was about half done with their supper, Mauk, the head of Jones & Laughlin's private police force, broke into the house. He led a number of regular police officers and state troopers. A warrant was read authorizing a raid on the premises "at any time, day or night" and the search of any part of the house; and to take any-

regular Cossack fashion. Carpets were torn loose, pictures were torn from the walls, and the floor torn up. Several books which were compiled for years by the proprietor for his library, were taken. Several Croatian calendars composed part of the confiscated "red literature." Seven men, including Milan Resetar, the ex-soldier, were taken to police headquarters. Nick Perac, a neighbor of Zimas, who came in to take home his girl, who happened to be at the birthday party, was also taken along and "locked up."

Pete Muselin, the secretary of the Barbers' Union, who also happens to be one of the boys who helped to make the world safe for democracy, was visiting his aged mother and was having some lunch there. He was interrupted by the same representatives of "law and order," who read a warrant similar to the one read previously at Zima's place. The house was ransacked, some literature taken and Muselin placed under arrest.

At the same time, Pete Muselin's own house was raided, "thoroughly searched" and three roomers arrested.

It was 2 in the morning. Eleven men found themselves behind iron bars as a result of the little "red raid" staged by Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation. At the hearing three of the men were released and

eight were held for the grand jury on a thousand dollars bail each, charged with violation of the infamous Flynn Anti-Sedition Act during the past two years. All were released on bond due to the efforts of the In-



Pete Muselin

ternational Labor Defense of Pittsburgh.

This raid is part of a bitter struggle for the right of free speech and free assemblage in the domain of Jones & Laughlin, near Woodlawn.

Free Speech in Pennsylvania

AN I. L. D. MEETING IN GREENVILLE BROKEN UP
BY STEEL TRUST AGENTS



NNovember 1, while Martin Krasic, secretary of the South Slavic section of International Labor Defense was speaking at a meeting arranged by friends of I. L. D. in Greenville, Penna., police led by county detective Sam Leyshok entered the hall, broke up the meeting and arrested Comrade Krasic who was held under \$100 cash bond for not having the American flag on display in the hall while speaking. Among the raiders was chief of police Jenkins of the Carnegie Steel Corporation.

At the hearing the next day Krasic was fined \$100 on the same charge; the fine was paid.

After the fine was paid, Comrade Krasic asked Leyshok if the absence of the flag was the only reason why the meeting was broken up; that, if

this were the case another meeting would be called with a big flag displayed in the hall.

Leyshok answered: "Hell, no! That's not the only reason. If you had a flag in the hall we would find some other reason to break up your meeting. If we could find no reason we would break down the damned hall just to get you out of this city."

It is clear that the absence of the flag was not even a partial reason for the arrest and the dispersal of the meeting. The Carnegie Steel Corporation does not want to have the workers get together and discuss their every day problems in Cossack Pennsylvania. But in spite of this, the I. L. D. is progressing and is organizing new branches all over the country; before long it will have a strong branch even in the steel trust-ridden town of Greenville.



Milan Resetar

thing the "representatives of law and order" saw fit. The combined police force—regular, state and of the steel company—all led by the infamous Mauk proceeded to ransack the house from top to bottom, in

The Revolutionary Heritage of E

EUGENE VICTOR DEBS lived and did his work in the pregnant years which marked the rise and development of American imperialism, when American industry expanded on a gigantic scale and when the working class, which holds the future in its hands, went through a series of stormy struggles which were the harbinger of far greater ones to come.

In 1894, after a record of successful activity in building the railroad brotherhoods, he led the first great strike of an industrial union, the American Railway Union strike against the Pullman company. It was in this strike that the injunction was first used against workers combined in struggle and it was Debs who led the fight against it. This fight led him into Woodstock jail and it set his feet on the road of the revolutionary movement. Debs came out of jail a convinced socialist, firm in the belief he held to the last that the emancipation of the workers could be achieved only by the unity of their political and economic power and that socialism was the goal of their struggle.

He aided in the foundation of the Socialist Party, which reached the apex of its revolutionary spirit and power when the United States entered the imperialist world war. In his party, he was never identified with those who sought to smooth the road with respectability and base compromise. To the contrary his voice was always raised with those in his party who stood for a revolutionary policy.

Debs was one of the most active spirits in organizing the Industrial Workers of the World. In it he hoped to embody and vitalize the idea of industrial unionism which he cherished so passionately and defended to the last. Even in later years, when he had ceased to belong to the I. W. W., he continued to defend it and its members. There were those, particularly in the period before and after the war, who anxiously protested their disagreement with and disassociation from the despised and hunted "wobblies"; but Debs was not among them. In the greatest speech of his life at Canton, in the midst of the lynching campaign against the I. W. W., he extended his great spirit of solidarity to them. He defended Haywood and the others on trial at Chicago, just as strongly as he denounced Gompers hobnobbing with the war mongers at Washington.

Debs did not fear to align himself with unpopular causes. When Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone faced legal assassination by the servile courts of Idaho, Debs rallied to their cause with unforgettable revolutionary fervor. He poured his entire rebel body and mind into a rousing call to the workers of America. In the *Appeal to Reason* to which he contributed at that time, he issued his appeal, "Arouse, Ye Slaves!"

"If they attempt to murder Moyer, Haywood and their brothers, a million revolutionists, at

least, will meet them with guns... Let them dare to execute their devilish plot and every state in this Union will resound with the tramp of revolution....

"Get ready, comrades, for action! . . . A special revolutionary convention of the proletariat at Chicago, or some other central point, would be in order, and, if extreme measures are required, a general strike could be ordered and industry paralyzed as a preliminary to a general uprising.

"If the plutocrats begin the program, we will end it."

The revolutionary activity of Comrade Debs reached its highest point at Canton, Ohio, and the trial which followed in the courtroom in Cleveland. When the imperialists of this country entered the world war, when the masses were armed to shoot down their brothers in other lands for the profit of the master class, when the workers found themselves dragged and betrayed on every hand, their organizations debauched and suppressed; when the traitors and cowards—the Sparrows and Wallings and Bensons—went over openly to the side of the enemy; when the masses sought for some authentic voice of opposition, they heard it from the lips of Eugene Debs.

The speech of Debs at Canton was a call to action for the class-conscious workers of America. It was a courageous and revolutionary defiance of the war mongers and of the Judases in the ranks of labor. Debs realized the consequences of his word and deed. Just as proudly therefore did he bear himself during the trial at Cleveland. Just as staunchly did he refuse to crave the pardon of the ruling class while he served his term of imprisonment in Atlanta. He left the prison with shattered health, but his revolutionary spirit was stronger than ever, sup-

ported by the greeting by workers from all

In the closing year different path from those who had stood times of trial and s the Russian revolution of the world in which



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EUGENE V.

Memory Heritage of Eugene Victor Debs

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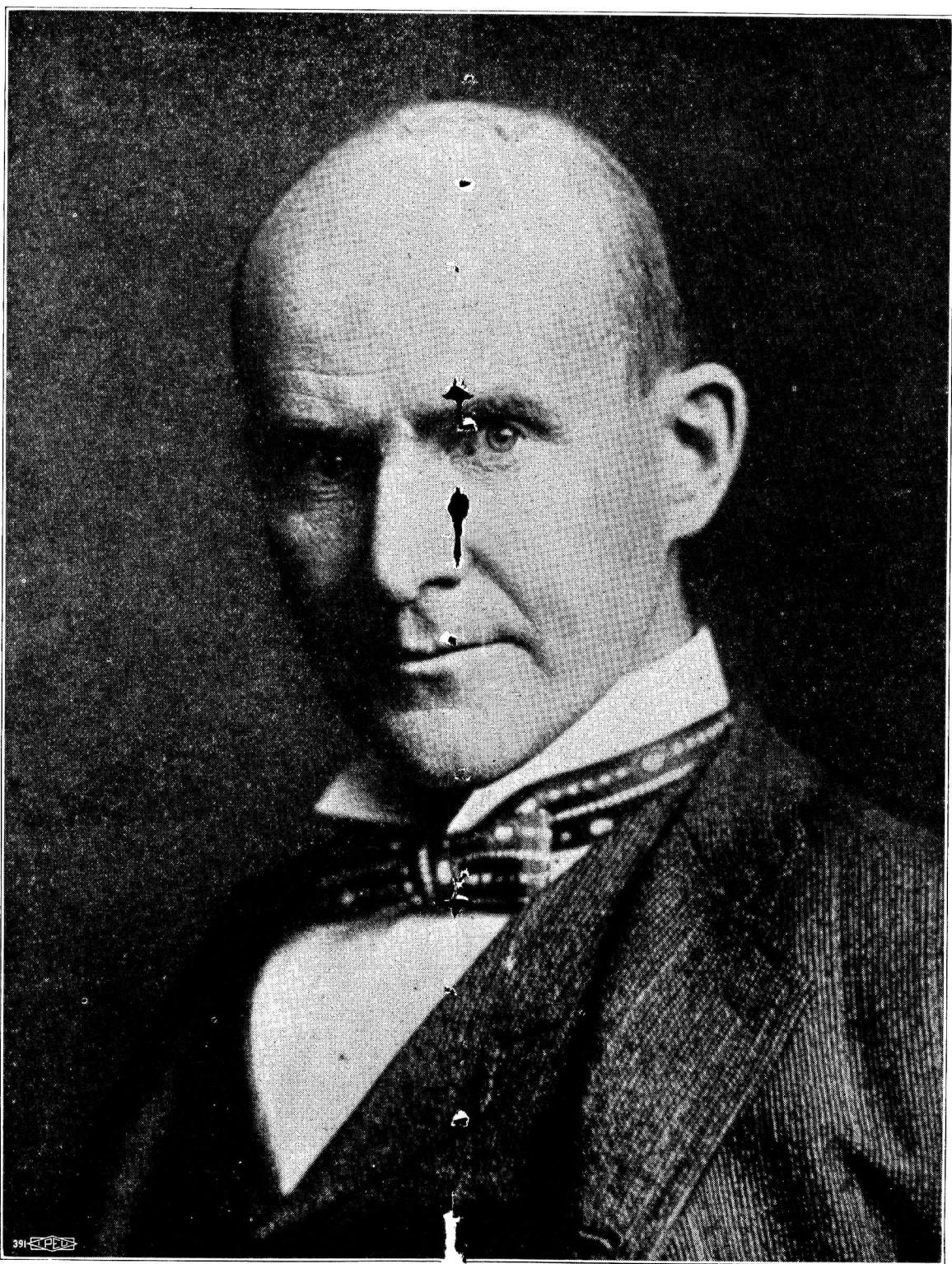
ported by the greetings of solidarity sent him by workers from all parts of the world.

In the closing years of his life Debs took a different path from that followed by many of those who had stood closest to him in the times of trial and success. The world war and the Russian revolution had changed the face of the world in which Debs had formed his

conceptions and done his work. In drawing the conclusions from these world-shaking events many of us parted company politically with the Socialist Party. Debs did not go with us in this. In many respects we found ourselves in serious disagreement with him, but at the same time we always drew a sharp distinction between Debs and those who, while wearing the cloak of socialism, actually forsook the cause to which Debs sincerely and honestly devoted all his life.

Debs always stood for unity in the struggle. He made his word a deed in many instances, especially by his persistent support of the International Labor Defense, upon whose national committee he served from the very beginning. The old class war prisoner knew the value of a unified movement to batter down the walls and bars that hold our comrades confined. How different was his sincere and untiring support of this work from the malicious attacks of the Jewish Daily Forward! No one could more sharply mark the distinction between two differing spirits and traditions in the movement than did Debs, by his actions and work for the I. L. D., in comparison with those of the *Forward* who, without basis, claim him as their own. It is not to them that Debs belongs.

Debs was no colorless saint standing above the battle. He was a warm and passionate partisan and his whole life's activity is a record of unceasing devotion to the cause of the workers in the class struggle. His great love for the masses cannot be understood if it is separated from the movement whose struggles and ideals he incarnated. He was such a superior personality that he was able, while fighting in the sordid environment of capitalism, to keep a clear vision of the goal of the struggle. He saw always the golden future which



EUGENE VICTOR DEBS

Eugene Victor Debs

By James P. Cannon

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will follow the final victory of the workers and he was able, in the fight for that future, to conduct his personal life according to its nobler and higher standards.

In honoring the memory of Comrade Debs we should strive to emulate some of his attributes to show some little part at least of his dauntless courage, his uncalculating generosity and his marvelous comrade spirit. Debs was not only a tireless agitator against capitalism and a champion of the workers in the revolutionary struggle. He was also a herald of the comrade-world which will be organized after the final conflict and victory when classes and class exploitation will have been abolished, when culture becomes universal and the finer and nobler aspects of the human character become not merely the possession of rare individuals but the attributes of the entire race.

Capitalism, with its corruption and decay, its hypocrisy and cynicism, its injustice and oppression, makes it difficult to visualize the society which the regenerated human race will construct upon the ruins of capitalism. But the personality of Comrade Debs has given us a glimpse of it.

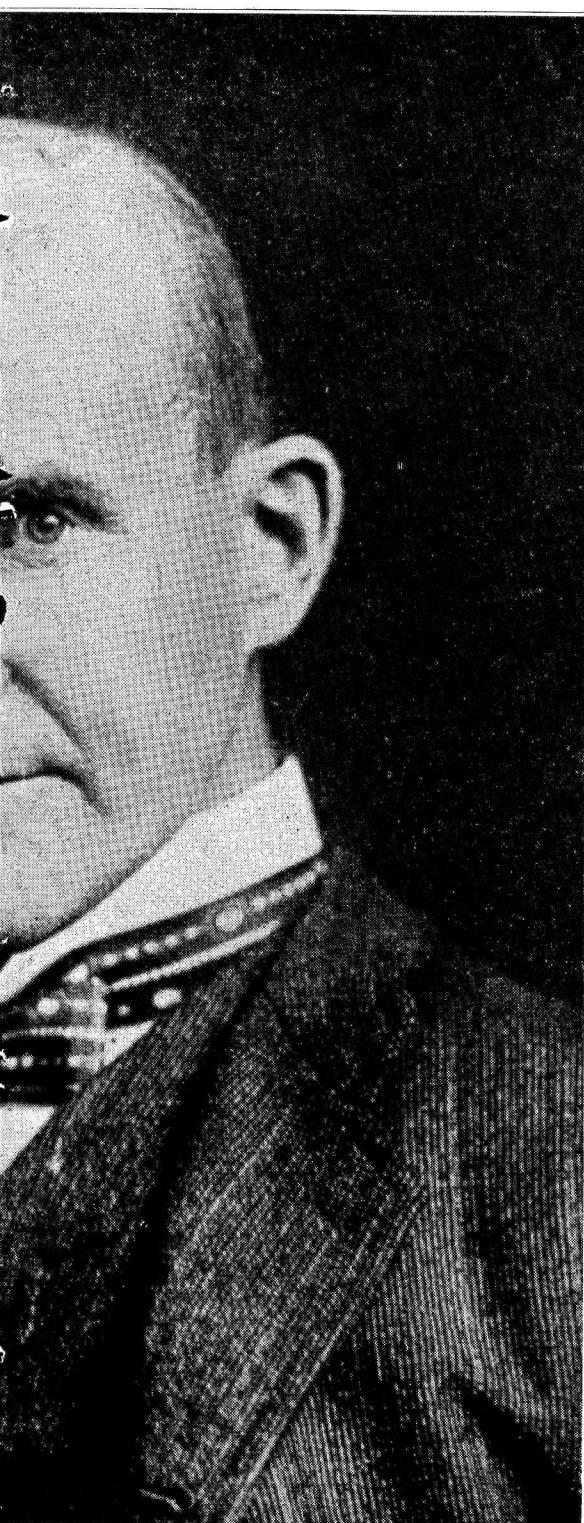
Debs left to the American workers a great tradition of persistent revolutionary struggle.

The great fighter was our elder brother, and he remains ours, in spite of the differences that we may have had with him. We know that he grew to the full stature of his greatness in the storm of struggle, that he was identified prominently with every outstanding movement and battle of the American workers since the last part of the nineteenth century.

The influence of Eugene V. Debs has not ended with his death. The modern militant labor movement, which is the heir and successor of that movement of revolt which took shape in the years preceding the world war, has taken to heart the death of Debs, the most authentic spokesman of the earlier movement. It is to this movement, inheriting the best of the traditions of the past, that Debs belongs. It is the best representative of the revolutionary spirit and work of the dead leader.

The death of Eugene V. Debs has called forth the most profound sorrow from the ranks of the American workers. At his grave we greet him as a great warrior and pay our tribute to him by pledging ourselves to the continuation of his work.

The "Debs' Enrollment" which has been initiated by International Labor Defense is intended as a tribute to Debs and as a memorial to him. Those who enter the ranks and march with them will continue the work of the prisoner of Atlanta and Woodstock, who, having overcome both of these prisons, continued to the end to fight for the release of the whole working class from that greater prison which is capitalism.



TOR DEBS

Frame-Up in New Jersey

NEWS JERSEY, which is infamous for its frame-ups and clubbings of workers who dare to strike for better living conditions, has made another record in the City of Perth Amboy.

Another Jersey industrial hell is competing with Passaic to make the entire New Jersey state and government machinery one strike-breaking agency. Police, judges and bosses work hand in hand against the workers. In order to successfully destroy the industrial despotism of the state of New Jersey, the workers must turn to political as well as industrial methods. They must sweep out the henchmen and agents of the bosses who are experts in police brutality and frame-ups, from office.

During the organization campaign of the American Federation of Labor carried on recently in Perth Amboy, the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers succeeded in organizing a local from amongst the workers of the Raritan Copper Works and the Standard Underground Cable Co.

The workers realizing the terrible conditions, low wages, long hours, they were working under, saw the necessity of organization and began to join the union in greater and greater numbers. The bosses realizing that if the workers organized, they would demand better



James Rowan.

working conditions and more wages, took steps to prevent the workers from organizing.

The bosses tried to break the union by firing several union men. The union decided to fight the bosses' scheme of breaking up the union. The local sent a delegation to the company officials demanding that the men fired be reinstated. The bosses refused to reinstate the men. In order to save the union and have the union men that were fired reinstated, a strike was declared.

August 15th, Sunday, the first day of the strike the union had pickets in front of the plant, who succeeded in getting a few hundred workers to join the strike. The bosses seeing that growing sentiment of the workers in support of the strike, became terrorized and decided to check the activities of the leaders, and the most militant pickets.

On Monday morning the police had warrants out for the arrest of James Rowan, an official of the union, and two militant Italian strikers, namely, Anthony Pignatore and Mike Talamo. They were charged with assault and battery with intent to kill. The police claiming that these three men hit a worker on the head with a lead pipe, Sunday night while on his way to work. They were held under \$3,000 bail each.

Oliver R. Hatfield, president of the Industrial Association of Perth Amboy was on the scene of the strike, speaking to individual strikers, trying to get information about their leaders in order to frame them up.

Cases of frame-ups against active union men and picket leaders are increasing daily. The need for the I. L. D., the only organization which defends the victims of the bosses' greed, is greater than ever.

The New York Section of the International Labor Defense is taking care of the cases.

The Value of Money to the Man Inside

By Warren K. Billings

THERE are, after all, not many of the members of organized labor who have suffered the curse of imprisonment. A few of us have been unfortunate enough to get ourselves into jail, a county jail or a city prison, usually, for a few days during some strike or lockout and a very few of us have been unlucky enough to enjoy this experience more than once during an exceptionally active career but there are nevertheless but a few of us indeed who have ever been so unfortunate as to get ourselves into the penitentiary as a result of labor activities. Then, out of this small band there is a still smaller percentage of us who have so far incurred the displeasure of the bosses that we have been sent to the penitentiary for long terms, even for life; and it is to this last unfortunate band that I belong. I do not mean to insinuate that it is labor's fault that I am in prison. No, it is distinctly my own fault. But the mere

fact that it was my activities in labor's war which directly led up to my persecution and imprisonment puts me in a position to expect and to appreciate anything and everything that labor might do for me during my incarceration. This brings us down to a consideration of the matter in hand—the matter of money.

Suppose now, that you had been in prison for eight years and a half or more and that all during that time you hadn't had a piece of chocolate candy, and suppose some of your friends "outside" banded together and took up a little collection and sent you—let us say—five dollars, and this five dollars enabled you to buy some of that chocolate candy that you'd been craving for eight years or more—now wouldn't you be pleased and grateful? And would not you be very liable to say to yourself, "Well, I'm damned glad to see that I've still got some good friends on the 'outside'?" Well, that's just

the way I feel about it.

Of course, chocolate candy isn't the only thing that money enables one to buy in a penitentiary although it is an important item at that—especially to a man who hasn't enjoyed the liberty of buying it at any time he wanted it. But money means much more to the "convict" than mere chocolate candy. It means peace and security—it means that he can buy stamps and thus keep in touch with his friends "outside," that he can buy writing materials—that he can buy books with which to improve his mind or to while away the time—it means that he can also enjoy such common, every-day luxuries as possessing a turkish bath towel; a comb; a brush; a mirror; real toilet soap to use instead of the "Jimmy Hope" brown soap that is the only "free" kind to be had. It means that he can buy extra tobacco with which to assuage the only vice the law allows him in a place of this kind; that he can buy chessmen

and checkers or dominoes with which to amuse himself and his companions and that he can buy a thousand and one other little things which folks on the outside have come to consider as necessities rather than luxuries because they have had them always at hand and have never been denied them. We "inmates" are not denied them, either, but neither are we supplied with them. There are no provisions in the laws governing the running of prisons which state that each inmate shall be supplied with toilet soap, bath towels, amusements, text books, bed sheets, summer underwear and safety razors, yet all of these things are within the reach of an inmate who has a little money at his disposal and it is all this that makes the prisoner so greatly appreciate what

little assistance friends and friendly organizations can give him. If you want to truly realize what all this means to the man behind the bars, try it out on yourself. Go without the toilet articles you use daily, wipe on a linen towel as rough and sturdy as a cement sack, get shaved once a week in the Moler Barber College and do all this while all the men around you are enjoying the benefits of all these little luxuries. If you tried to live that way for a year, the mere sight of a turkish towel would make you envious and seeing the other men smoke when they wanted to and grin at you over their chocolate bars on "commissary day" would make you want to commit robbery or "general mopery" or some other such heinous crime but when it was over you'd realize what

a few dollars might mean to the man "inside."

I haven't covered this subject in the way that I feel it ought to be covered because a little money to other men, perhaps, more or less material than myself—or perhaps with dependents on the outside, or under some other circumstances, might mean more to them but it at least means this much to me and I'm quite sure that it means at least as much to every other member of organized labor who is now in prison.

At any rate, keep up the good work. No matter how much or how little you do for the fellow "inside" if you do it he knows you are "out there" for him and he'll always appreciate it.



BUILDING THE I.L.D.

Conducted by



The Branch Problem

THE branch is the basic unit of the I. L. D. organization.

Without functioning branches there can be no functioning I. L. D. Without active members there can be no branch.

The problem is how to get members to attend meetings—how to get them to participate in branch activities.

The first requisite is, of course, interesting branch meetings. The next is national campaigns to participate in.

The duty of the national executive is to initiate campaigns and give direction to them, but without a functioning membership the best plans and resolutions remain on paper, pigeonholed in a secretary's desk or thrown into a wastebasket.

How can a branch be made to function?

That is the question confronting every responsible branch secretary. That is the question we must answer. In this answer lies the keynote to the successful growth of a non-partisan army of labor defenders united into an organized force for the protection of workers against capitalist persecution.

The answer is not simple. Many factors have to be considered. Local economic conditions. Character and composition of local workers, the language problem, geographical location, and all other difficulties and advantages.

No one law can be formulated. Only a general set of rules can be prescribed to be applied as local conditions permit. With suggestions from the field workers, special sets of rules can gradually be developed which can be applied to groups of cities



Three I. L. D. Workers in Avella, Pa.
Margaret Valko, Mary Baldassari and Clara Baldassari.

having similar characteristics. This is why we have been stressing in all our letters to secretaries our requests for suggestions, constructive criticisms and descriptions of local capacity for the conduct of I. L. D. work. Only with this information in hand can the national office be in position to make helpful suggestions for broadening the local defense activities.

Rose Karsner

General Rules for Branches

1. No branch can function well without a functioning branch executive.

The branch executive should consist of the secretary-organizer (in small branches both in one. Two separate functions in large branches). Treasurer, Labor Defender agent, social director, women's and children's director (wherever possible) and the City Central Committee Delegate (in the larger cities). The functions of each of these officers has been prepared in mimeograph form and can be had upon request.

2. Branches should meet at least once a month.

3. The meeting night should be set as a definite day of the month for example the first Monday of each month.

4. Every member should be reminded about the meeting each month a few days ahead until he forms the habit of coming regularly. The secretary should aim to make the letter interesting and give the agenda. New members should always get a special letter.

5. The branch executive should always get together a few days before the branch meeting and decide on the agenda which the secretary is to send out in calling the branch meeting.

6. The executive committee should read through carefully all communications from the local or national office and extract those parts which require action. These should be itemized by the secretary. Each communication on a separate sheet of paper.

7. Each communication should be digested by the Executive, so that the secretary reads only the essential parts at the meeting. Exceptions should of course be made with very important communications which the branch should listen to in their entirety. After each communication is read, the sec-

retary should enumerate, from the sheet prepared by the executive, the points requiring action. Important communications should be elaborated upon by one of the members of the executive so as to give the matter dealt with more emphasis.

8. The executive should come to each branch meeting with definite suggestions for activities. These activities should consist of:

(a) A social every other meeting preceded by a short order of business.

(b) Definite assignments of subjects to members for a branch meeting ahead to lead the discussion. Subjects and facts can be secured from the Labor Defender pages, or from National Office.

(c) Distribution of Labor Defender at union and other meetings.

(d) Participation in current campaigns.

(e) Assignments to members to visit unions to secure local affiliations and general support.

(f) Reading of prisoners' letters. One letter can be chosen for reading at each meeting (See "Voices from Prison," Labor Defender). The executive should assign different members for each meeting and the choosing of the letter should be left to the reader.

9. Special attention should be paid at each meeting to methods of getting absent members to attend—by writing special letters and by visiting.

10. Branch meetings should start promptly and the business should be conducted in the first 30 to 45 minutes. The rest of the meeting should be devoted to discussion and reports.

11. Strong emphasis should be laid on the importance of the "small tasks" of running a branch. At each meeting this should be pointed out, and those who do this work should be given due recognition. "Great oaks from little acorns grow."

12. A branch bulletin should be issued if at all possible, mentioning the members who are doing the work of the branch and the successes they are achieving. Point out how by an accumulation of these "small tasks" the big work of the I. L. D. gets done. How without these members who are doing this work it would be impossible to have a successful branch. Show that the "small tasks," uninteresting as they seem, are in reality the most interesting because they give the members an opportunity to find out how the workers in general react to our slogans and accomplishments. For example. The selling of Labor Defenders at union meetings. How the union men react to the magazine and what they have to say.

Sample Agenda for Branch Executive Meeting

1. Election of Chairman.
2. Reading of communications with secretary making separate sheets for points of action on each communication.
3. Reports of (a) City Central Delegate.
(b) Labor Defender (and other literature).
(c) Social director.
(d) Women's and children's director.

- (e) Treasurer.
- (f) Committee for visiting absent members.

After each report the Executive committee should decide how the report should be made at the branch meeting so as to give full information in the shortest possible time.

4. Assignment for reading of letter from a class-war prisoner to one of the branch members for following meeting.

5. Plans for participating in current campaigns.

6. Branch Bulletin (if possible).

Sample Agenda for Branch Meetings

1. Election of Chairman.
2. Reading of minutes.
3. Transaction of business.
 - (a) Collection of dues.
 - (b) Settling for tickets.
 - (c) New members and issuance of cards to them by financial secretary.
4. Report of Executive committee including agenda for meeting.
5. Report of Labor Defender agent (and other I. L. D. literature).
 - (a) How many sold during month?
 - (b) How sold—at union meeting, at mass meetings, at news stands.
 - (c) Subscriptions.
6. Report of Social director.
7. Report of Women's and children's director.
8. Report on absent members.
9. Report of financial secretary.
10. Communications and bills.
11. Reading of "Voices from Prison" (one or two letters).
12. Good and Welfare.
13. Discussion led by one of members on some specific case as assigned previously by branch executive.
14. Adjournment.

Debs Memorial Meetings

THE following cities held Debs Memorial meetings under I. L. D. auspices. Speakers from all workers' organizations were invited to join in our tribute to Debs:

1. New York, Oct. 25.
2. Cleveland, Oct. 27.
3. Chicago, Oct. 30.
4. Detroit, Oct. 31.
5. Santa Barbara, Oct. 31.
6. San Jose, Oct. 31.
7. Youngstown, Nov. 1.
8. Boston, Nov. 4.
9. Buffalo, Nov. 5.
10. Philadelphia, Nov. 7.
11. Oakland, Nov. 10.
12. Los Angeles, Nov. 12.
13. St. Louis, Nov. 13.

14. Kansas City, Nov. 14.
15. Milwaukee, Nov. 14.
16. Portland, Nov. 14.
17. Rock Island, Ill., Nov. 14.
18. Denver, Nov. 15.
19. Erie, Nov. 15.
20. Seattle, Nov. 21.
21. Minneapolis, Nov. 28.
22. St. Paul, Nov. 28.

J. P. Cannon spoke at the meetings in Chicago, Detroit, Boston, Buffalo, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Kansas City, Minneapolis, and St. Paul. Other speakers were: Benjamin Gitlow, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Tom Clifford, Israel Amter, Charles Cline, Maurice Sugar, Carl Haessler, J. C. Kennedy, William F. Dunne, Hyman Schneid, Ralph Chaplin, C. E. Ruthenberg.

Flynn on Tour

E LIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, National Chairman of the I. L. D., has begun her cross-country tour. Her subject will be "Persecution of Strikers at Passaic."

Her dates to the west coast are as follows:

Bentleyville, Pa., Nov. 19
Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 20.
Avella, Pa., Nov. 21.
Brownsville, Pa., Nov. 21.
McDonald, Pa., Nov. 23.
Chicago, Nov. 24, 25 and 26.
Denver, Nov. 28.
Walsenburg, Colo., Nov. 30.
Aguilar, Colo., Dec. 1.
Trinidad, Colo., Dec. 2.
Dec. 3rd and 4th en route.
Los Angeles, Dec. 5, 6, 7 and 8.
San Francisco, Dec. 9 and 10.
Oakland, Dec. 11.
San Jose, Dec. 12.
San Francisco, Dec. 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

From San Francisco she goes to: Portland, Astoria, Tacoma, Seattle, Kirkland, Mt. Vernon, Spokane, and Great Falls, Mont.

Her return trip to the East will begin December 26th.

Charles Cline Returns to Chicago

C HAS. CLINE, a member of the I. W. W., has recently been released from a Texas prison where he served 13 years for participating in the movement to help the oppressed workers of Mexico. He carries with him a miniature electric chair, modeled in wood.

Cline started on a tour to the East under the auspices of the I. L. D. on October 16th. Everywhere Comrade Cline spoke he met with good response. Several cities have asked him to return at a future date.

The cities he visited are: Hammond, Gary, Grand Rapids, Cleveland, Neffs, Youngstown, Buffalo, Erie, Hartford, New York, Passaic, Yonkers, Perth Amboy.

Cline is now on his way back to Chicago. The following cities have already booked him. We expect more requests.

Chester, Philadelphia, Boston and vicinity for six days, Binghamton, Reading Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

Scott Nearing will speak under I. L. D. auspices in Kansas City on December 12th and in Omaha on the 13th.



Voices from Prison

Paul Crouch

Alcatraz, Calif.

James P. Cannon,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrade Cannon:

Please pardon me for not writing more frequently in acknowledgement of the aid given by the I. L. D. My correspondence is limited, am anxious to answer as many personal letters from comrades and friends as possible.

I am very grateful for the monthly check—of very material value in my present circumstances—and especially for the generous aid given my aged parents. This keeps my mind free from considerable worry about them. (Today I received a letter from my father saying that he had not walked one-fourth mile during the last year). Speaking for myself, and I believe for many other class conscious workers, we are not afraid of prisons and even the menace of death could not make us become traitors to the cause of labor. The efforts of the I. L. D. to take care of the material needs of the families of class war prisoners will defeat one of capitalism's instruments of persecution.

After almost two years behind bars, I value freedom more than ever before. But freedom of spirit means more to me than physical liberty and the danger of imprisonment will never prevent me from doing anything in my power to aid the cause of the working class. I look forward to the day of my release as an event meaning more than the open spaces and fresh air, delightful companionship and better living conditions. Most important of all to me—I shall join my fellow workers in the fight for economic and intellectual emancipation.

I have never received a copy of "Labor Defender," and cannot get any real labor publicity—not even the "Federated Press Labor Letter." But the I. L. D. has become such a success that almost daily I see mention of its activities in the capitalist press. The progress of the I. L. D. has been remarkable, considering the spiritual and material bondage of most American workers at present. It has become a lighthouse in an ocean of darkness.

Many "liberal" individuals and organizations oppose laws violating the principles of free speech. But they give little or no attention when workers are framed with other charges, because of their loyalty to labor. Legislation alone promises nothing. Only the organized force of an enlightened working class can bring justice and the end of persecution of class conscious workers.

I am glad to hear of the "Debs' Enrollment" plan. Am sure Gene Debs could have desired no greater honor than that his name should become a useful slogan in the fight for political prisoners and the cause of the workers. Carry on his work!

I would be delighted to have more letters

from comrades—if they are willing to wait for an answer until my release. Such letters contribute greatly in making prison life more pleasant.

Wishing you the greatest success in your work, I remain,

Fraternally yours,
Paul Crouch.

Eugene Barnett

Walla Walla, Wash.

Dear Comrade:

Attached to this letter you will find a receipt for the ninth monthly prisoners' relief check which I received last week.

I received a letter from Albert M. Glotzer, 745 S. Kedzie Ave., Chicago. It was a fine letter and I am sorry that I can't answer it. I cannot possibly answer all the letters I get as we can only write once a week. However, letters are appreciated in here as it helps to break the monotony.

I told Comrade Cannon that it was all right for him to use that autobiography of mine as he suggested. If my letter was lost this will let him know that his suggestion was agreeable to me.

The Parole Board did not take an action on our case at its September session. Its next meeting will be Nov. 26th.

I sure hope John Brophy wins the U. M. W. of A. election. The miners' union is doomed if John Lewis stays in power much longer. The scab coal that is going to England to smash the British miners' strike is the direct result of Lewis' union busting policies, such as the double crossing of the Pennsylvania and West Virginia miners in the 1919 and 1922 strikes.

Well, I must close for this time. With best wishes to all the comrades there, I remain,

Fraternally yours,
Eugene Barnett.

McNamara

San Quentin Prison.

My dear Cannon:

I received the twelfth monthly Prisoners Relief check of Five Dollars from International Labor Defense which is not looked upon with much favor by the American Federation of Labor. It comes with poor grace for the A. F. of L. to attack an organization that is looking after the wants of labor's shock troops and its many militants who are in prison.

It is often said that charity begins at home. Having that in mind and my everlasting faith in the rank and file of the trade union movement, I must say that Gompers is dead and the A. F. of L. is dying. I don't say that out of hate but out of fear

for the rank and file of the A. F. of L. It is time the Gompers leaders stepped aside. They have been at it 45 years and have organized three million workers. They have helped and worked hard to organize everything else in this country, but the workers. Three million organized workers will never be safe with ten million workers unorganized.

The Gompers leaders feel that they have done their share in the American labor movement and are content to lie in Washington, D. C., and receive false reports from their organizers who are being used by the foes of the workers in every district.

The above may sound like h—— to Bill Green and his crowd but facts are facts and the fact remains that everything is growing in this country but the American Labor Movement. They won't help anybody else organize the workers and they can't organize the workers themselves—Passaic.

If I am hard on Green and his dormant crowd when it comes to the welfare of all workers, it is because they are hard on labor's shock troops and all its militants. Turn the other cheek won't go in this day and age.

Detained,

J. B. McNamara, No. 25341.

John Lamb.

P. O. Box No. 520,
Walla Walla, Wash.

J. P. Cannon, Secretary
International Labor Defense.

Dear Friends and Fellow Workers:

I received your welcome letter of the 24th instant with the five dollar check enclosed for this month's prison relief. Please find your receipt signed and returned with this letter. I also received the \$3 check you sent me that came from the Bulgarian Progressive Club of Gary, Ind., and many thanks to them for same. And many thanks to the I. L. D. for their part in sending the \$3 for my birthday greetings.

I am in good spirit and the best of courage and getting along fine and dandy, considering everything. We, the Centralia defendants are all living in high hopes that we will all be released in the very near future.

I also sent by parcel post a box to the I. L. D. containing one hair belt, two solid bead bags, five watch fobs and two necklaces. I shipped said box August 11th and I have not heard from it up to date. On August 13th I wrote the I. L. D. a letter explaining the first letter and the delay in the shipping of the box of curios. I feel sure that you received the two letters and the box of curios and that everything is all right as I wrote you the letters and sent you the curios as per your request in letter of July 24th. Will you please answer



Walter Trumbull greeted at an I. L. D. mass meeting in New York upon his release from prison.

this letter and let me know if you received same.

I have more necklaces with initials I. L. D. on fob of necklace and will have two more finished this week. If I don't hear from you this week I will probably send them to the I. L. D. branch in California to sell for me. If you did receive the box of curios, when you sell them keep out of my part one year subscription for the Labor Defender as I asked you to put my little daughter's name on mailing list for the Labor Defender and I want to pay for same and oblige.

Fellow Worker James McInerny, No. 9410, could send you a nice box of valuable products such as: one nice inlaid box, high grade fancy, one nice center table cloth with napkins, one dozen fancy handkerchiefs made of very best material, two pillow cases, two very best necklaces, two swell ladies' dust caps, etc. This shipment is very valuable and would be very easily disposed of. We are very anxious to hear from you as we will know if you want us to keep on shipping you our products. If we should happen to make the Board I will write you immediately as I will want to work in harmony with you for the benefit of the remaining class war prisoners. With best wishes I am as ever yours for immediate release of the remaining class war prisoners, yours for Industrial Freedom.

Friend and fellow worker,

John Lamb.

Edgar Combs.

Mr. James P. Cannon,

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir and Friends:

Your late letter and check received, thanks for both. My wife advises me that she is getting along very well. Thanks to

Wanted

People who will send Christmas packages and cards to the class war prisoners; candies, cakes, fruits, tobacco (except cigarettes) may be sent. Send all packages and signed cards to the national office of International Labor Defense, 23 So. Lincoln Street, Chicago, Illinois. We will distribute them so that there is a fair amount of equality in the receipt of Christmas gifts by prisoners from friends.

our many friends, tho she lost one of her fingers at the factory where she works. I am getting along O. K. and am having fair health, and I hope that all my friends are enjoying the same good fortune.

You speak of Eugene V. Debs, in your recent letter, of course you are aware of the fact that he began his sentence here, and from the talks I have had with some of the old timers that was here during his stay, I find that he as a prisoner was the Gene as the outside knew him. Always with a smile and a pleasant word for all that he met. Of course there was many that had different political views than he, but all admired him. All at this place speak highly of him, and from what I have heard many prisoners say he will always be remembered by them. While a prisoner here I understand that he was treated with the utmost courtesy and kindness, by having a room in the hospital department, which was always kept cheerful by the mementoes that his many friends sent him.

I feel like you that the workers have lost a friend with the passing of Gene Debs, and one whose place will be hard to fill. Yet there are men at the four corners of the earth who would give their life for the sake of workers but there will never be another Debs, and I know that his name will always be fresh with all no matter what their politics may be.

The hospital here received a box of flowers that was sent here by friends of Eugene V. Debs, this alone brings to my mind the thought that even while dying he wanted the common people, HIS PEOPLE, to know that he still wanted them to know that he was thinking of them.

While I myself never saw or even heard the man speak, I feel that I, like all other class war prisoners have lost a dear friend. So now, dear friend, since his ashes is scattered to the four winds, regardless of our political views, pay homage to his memory, by building a monument in our own lives, in memory of the man who had each and every worker's cause near his heart. He has gone, dear friends, to his maker, who only wishes to keep him for his loved ones who is going to him some day. May the workers cherish his memory is the wish of your fraternally,

Edgar Combs.

P. S. Please tell all to write, and I would ask if any one has the life of Albert R. Parson that could be gotten. Would also ask for any and all books that are educational, my address is 818 Jefferson Ave., Moundsville, W. Va. I suppose this will

have to be my Xmas letter so I wish all a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year and luck to all of you my friends.

Edgar.

A Prisoner's Mother

I. L. D.,

Dear Comrades:

I visited my son half an hour Saturday morning. His wife the other half hour—we found him looking well, with as good courage as can be expected under the circumstances. They furnish him with enough to eat such as it is, through the kindness of the Lettish I. L. D. branch and the national office of the I. L. D. in Chicago in sending him money each month, he don't have to eat all their cheap food. He sends out and buys fruit and other foods. He wishes me to let every one know who contributes to his welfare in this way that he is something more than grateful for this kindness. Through the kindness of some of the Boston comrades, he is receiving several monthly magazines which is a great help to pass the long hours, when he is not at work. Even though he does not have to work hard enough to hurt himself, to be deprived of the fresh outdoor air, sunshine, birds, trees and flowers which he has always had to enjoy is harder to bear than one can imagine who has ever lived in free environment among the birds and trees as he has.

I only wish I could find words that would express my gratitude to every one who helps the I. L. D. as it is the only organization that is a true friend to the worker.

Allora Merrick.

Next Issue

The next issue of the Labor Defender will contain an article by Carl Haessler, former class war prisoner at Leavenworth, Kansas, on the famous strike of prisoners which took place in the penitentiary and was led by the political prisoners. Carl Haessler was one of the leaders of the unique and successful strike.

Another feature of the next issue will be the beginning of the publication of the life story of Eugene Barnett, one of the Centralia I. W. W. now imprisoned at Walla Walla. It is a story of a proletarian life so interestingly told by Barnett himself that it will hold the attention of our readers to the very end.

CASH RECEIPTS OCTOBER, 1926.	
14237 A. Hobson, Local Tacoma, Wash....\$ 5.00	14329 H. W. L. Dana, Cambridge, Mass. 50.00
14238 M. Thuroff, Local Albany, N. Y.... 4.00	14330 G. Maurer, Local Chicago 5.00
14239 John L. Burr, Berkeley, Cal. 3.75	14331 G. Maurer, Local Chicago 400.00
14240 A. J. Karcas, Local Grand Rap- ids, Mich. 8.30	14332 G. Maurer, Local Chicago 23.50
14241 Geo. Mehling, Yonkers, N. Y.... 2.00	14333 Cyril Lambkin, Local Detroit, Mich. 157.00
14242 Otto Olson, Kalispell, Mont. 7.00	14334 Dan Agalas, Local Saltese, Mont. 2.00
14243 Minnesota Gasoline and Fuel Co., Minneapolis 3.25	14335 Emil Ojennus, Bruce's Crossing, Mich. 8.00
14244 Armin Blech, Milwaukee, Wis. 2.00	14336 Tom Ray, McDonald, Pa. 4.00
14245 R. Zelms, New England Division ... 28.00	14347 Richard Niemi, Angora, Minn. 9.40
14246 B. Bonsoff, Lake County Local ... 10.00	14338 J. E. McDonald, Tampa, Fla.70
14247 B. Bonsoff, Lake County Local ... 3.75	14339 Julius Weinbrecht, Newark, N. J. 1.00
14248 Sam Pobersky, Local Duluth, Minn. 50.00	14340 Cyril Lambkin, Local Detroit, Mich. 400.00
14249 Albert Gerling, Madrid, Ia. 1.50	14341 Hammond Branch Lake County Loc 4.80
14250 James A. Ayers, Edgewater, Colo.... 14.00	14342 Gary Branch Lake County Local ... 19.02
14251 Anna Porter, San Jose, Calif. 6.00	14343 Czecho-Slovak Sick Ben. Fund, Hammond, Ind. 2.00
14252 Boston Hat Works, News Co., Cal- gary, Alta, Can.70	14344 Anna Hammer, Roslindale, Mass. 1.00
14253 A. Marinoff, Local Chester, Pa. 7.50	14345 S. Melus, Passaic, N. J. 5.00
14254 R. Zelms, New England District ... 21.20	14346 Geo. A. List, Brooklyn, N. Y. 5.00
14255 E. Kunsela Local Ashtabula, Ohio... 3.40	14347 Willis L. Wright, Great Falls, Mont. 1.00
14256 Geo. Maurer, Local Chicago 5.00	14348 B. Borisoff, Lake County Local 2.00
14257 Otto Brensen, Pittsburgh, Pa. 4.00	14349 B. Borisoff, Lake County Local 10.00
14258 John Dekker, Elk Grove, Calif. 1.00	14350 M. Kalousek, Czecho-Slovac Sec., Chicago 10.00
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